

August 15, 2014

Commission on the Marriage Canon  
Anglican Church of Canada  
80 Hayden Street  
Toronto, On  
M4Y 3G2

Dear: Canon Robert Falby, Chair Marriage Commission, Anglican Church Canada

**Re: Invitation for submissions, Commission-Marriage Canon**

Thank you, for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed motion of intent (General Synod 2013) to amend Canon XXI, On Marriage in the Church to allow for same-sex (homosexual) marriage.

Speaking not as a delegate to General Synod 2016, but as a member of the Mystical Body of Christ, the one apostolic, Catholic Church, Anglican Tradition, Anglican Church of Canada I have a number observations I would like to share with the faithful.

Applying the lens of the great Anglican Divine, Richard Hooker (Treatise On the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity 1594), let us consider: Holy Scripture, Christian Tradition and Reason.

The Holy Scriptures and Christian tradition teach that human sexuality is intended by God to find its rightful and full expression between a man and a woman in the covenant of marriage established by God in creation and affirmed by our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup> “But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall be come one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no man separate.”<sup>2</sup> Canon XXI On Marriage affirms in like manner the goodness of the union of man and woman in marriage, this being of God’s creation.<sup>3</sup> Marriage also is exalted as a sign<sup>4</sup> of the redeeming purpose of God to unite all things in Christ,<sup>5</sup> the purpose made known in the reunion of divided humanity in the Church.<sup>6</sup>

The ‘Sensus Fidelia’ of the Church, the Bishops of the Anglican Communion, while attending the Lambeth Conference 1998, passed Resolution 1.10, in view of the teaching

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<sup>1</sup> Lambeth Conference 1998 : Called to Full Humanity.

<sup>2</sup> Mk. 10 :6-9

<sup>3</sup> Cf. Gen. 1 :27-31

<sup>4</sup> Eph. 5 :31f. t

<sup>5</sup> Eph. 1 :9f.

<sup>6</sup> Eph. 2 :11-16

of Scripture, and upheld faithfulness of marriage between a man and woman in lifelong union, and believed that abstinence is right for those not called to marriage.<sup>7</sup>

The Church since its inception some 2000 years plus has affirmed the above definition of marriage as proclaimed by Jesus Christ-God Incarnate, the way, the truth and the life.<sup>8</sup> In the life of the Church, Holy Matrimony-Marriage is viewed as one of the seven sacraments.

It is important to note that in applying the notion of reason to the question of same-sex marriage one is hard pressed to understand why the Anglican Church at this time is willing to consider changing the present Canon on Marriage, in light of its doctrines on sin (love the sinner, hate the sin) to accommodate a sub-culture where science has yet to prove homosexuality is genetic, and postulates that it is more an attraction based on sexual orientation and lifestyle.

I fear the passing of this motion may have a tremendous consequence to the unity of the Church both locally and globally, “that they may be one”<sup>9</sup>. The unintended impact will be felt throughout the Anglican Communion and with our Ecumenical partners both Christian and inter-faith. Passing of this motion could lead to a further decline in Church membership.

In conclusion I cannot support the proposed motion of intent to amend the present Canon XX1 allowing for same-sex marriage, as it appears to contravene the teachings of the Sacred Holy Bible-Scripture, God’s Law on marriage, Christian Tradition, Reason and my ordination vows.

As followers of Jesus we the Church, the people of God are called to proclaim the Good News: Christ has died, Christ is risen and Christ will come again. We are not called to accommodate the world, but to transform the world into the light of Christ.

As Disciples of Christ we have been given our mission in life, the Great Commission, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.”<sup>10</sup>

As we contemplate the proposed amendment to the Canon XXI – On Marriage to allow for the marriage of same sex couples let us be mindful of the words Gregory of Nyssa (c330-395) and Vincent of Lérims (c-450):

“In the Faith which was delivered by God to the Apostles we admit neither subtraction, nor alteration, nor addition. Whatever is said otherwise than in exact accord with the truth

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<sup>7</sup> Lambeth Conference 1998, Motion 1.10

<sup>8</sup> John 14.6

<sup>9</sup> John 17.11

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 28. 19-20

is assuredly false, not true.”<sup>11</sup> And “ In the Catholic Church itself, every care should be taken to hold fast to what has been believed everywhere, always and by all.”<sup>12</sup>

+Soli Deo Gloria  
Fr. Donald Tudin  
Priest, Diocese Ottawa  
August 15, 2014  
ST Mary The Virgin HD

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<sup>11</sup> Gregory of Nyssa, Church Father c330-395

<sup>12</sup> Vincent of Lérims Church Father c-450